Players I

Objectives

- Identify the main players in a complex emergency;
- Define the roles of the various players;
- Gain a greater insight into the relationship between the players

The Players: Civilian Organizations

- United Nations
  - UNOCHA
  - UNHCR
  - UNICEF
  - WFP
  - WHO
- Host Nation
  - Government
  - Regional/Local authority
  - Tribal / traditional leaders
  - Business
  - Victims
- International/Non-Governmental
  - ICRC
  - Red Cross/Red Crescent
  - CARE
  - MSF
- Donors
  - Government
  - Military
  - Foreign vs. Individual
  - Religious

United Nations

- A *treaty* with an administration
- Not *one* institution
- The Secretary General *presides,* doesn't rule

United Nations: Contradictions

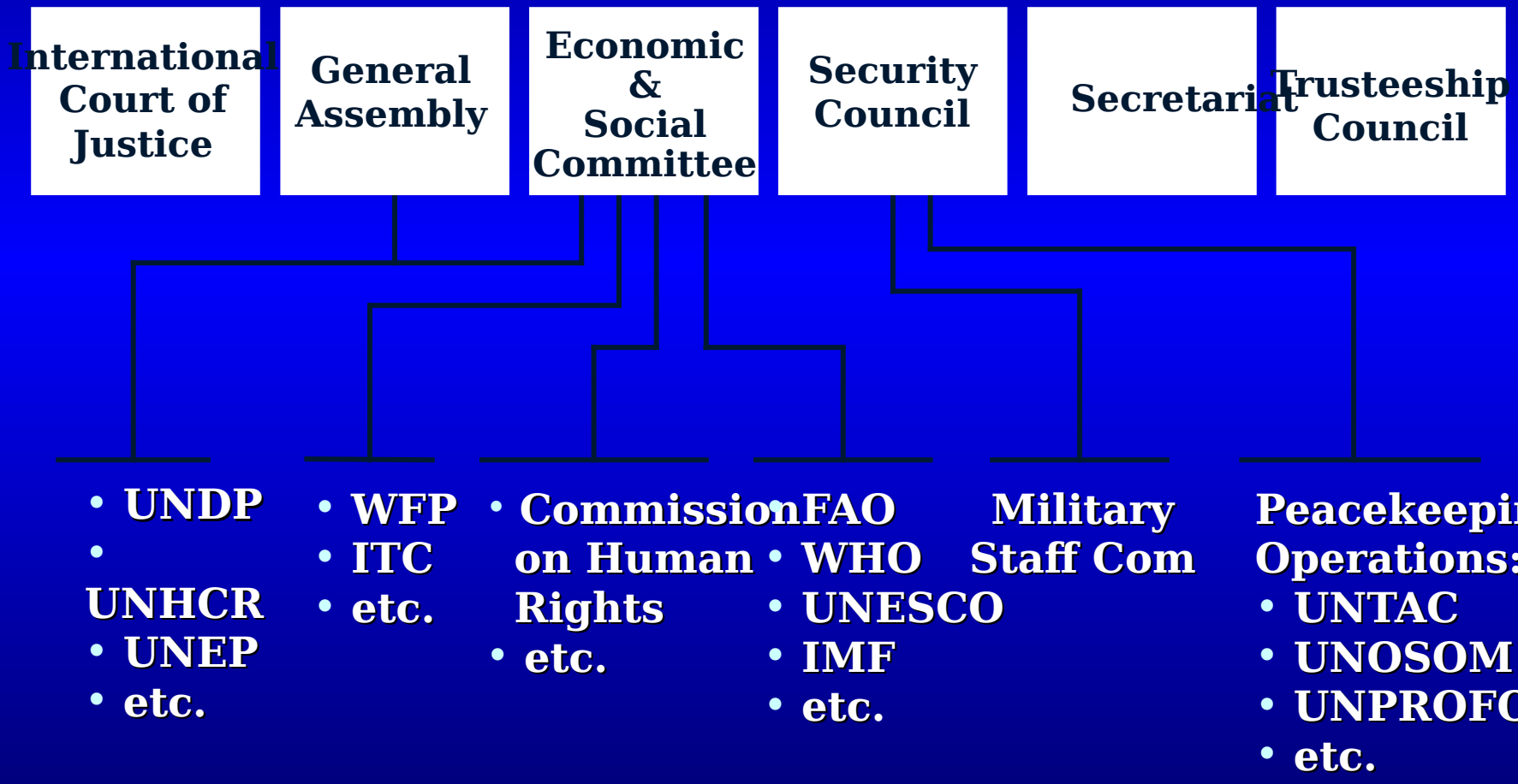
Human rights, equal rights of all nations, e.g.

(Universal Convention of Human Rights: obliges member states to protect human rights)

yet…

Not authorized to intervene within the domestic jurisdiction of any state, e.g.
(Article 2: Guarantees territorial integrity of borders)

United Nations: Systems



United Nations: Options to Peace

- Negotiations
- Pressure of international diplomacy
- Outside intervention authorized by Security Council (Article 42)
- Peacekeeping operations:
  - Observers, deploying forces, civilian personnel

United Nations: Agencies

- UNOCHA - Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs (formerly DHA)
- UNHCR - High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNICEF - International Children's Emergency Fund
- WFP - World Food Programme
- WHO - World Health Organization

United Nations: Lead Agency

- Autonomous and independent of the Secretary General or the General Assembly

- Lead agency is assigned by Secretary General:
  - Prior to complex emergencies: *UNDP*
  - Bosnia: *UNHCR*
  - African drought: *WFP*
  - Sudan/Kurdish Crisis: *UNICEF*
  - Angola: *UNDHA*
  - Somalia: *no lead agency*
  - Rwanda: *UNHCR*
  - E. Timor: *UNOCHA*

United Nations: Coordination

- UNOCHA - designated as the coordinator for the humanitarian assistance but has no <u>authority</u> over the agencies
  - single focal point of contact for humanitarian assistance in an emergency
    - information
    - funding
    - accreditation
  - has coordination role with NGOs/IOs

Non-Governmental Organizations

Broad definition:

- Every organization in society which is not part of government, and which operates in civil society

Four defining characteristics:

1. Voluntary
2. Independent
3. Not-for-profit
4. Not self-serving in aims and related values

Non-Governmental Organizations

NGO Diversity:

- Size
- Operating Styles
- Geographic Focus
- Religious background
- Programmatic Orientation

NGO Growth

- Distribute more aid than the World Bank
- Annual spending > $1 trillion
- If viewed as a nation = 8th in economic power
- Handle 30% of American aid, soon to rise to 40%

David Briscoe, AP, November 7, 1998

Humanitarian Principles Which Define and Protect NGOs

- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
- Independence
- Voluntary
- Unity
- Universality

Non-Governmental Organizations: Types

- Development
- Indigenous
- Advocacy
- Disaster - Relief

Development NGOs

- Consistent with national interest

- Attempt to address the concerns of the unprivileged and underserved in the Third World through:
  - primary healthcare
  - agricultural assistance
  - provision of basic services and education

Indigenous NGOs

- Built on traditional practices and forms of organizing
- Many sprang up in response to disaster (>20,000)
- Respond to local needs

Advocay NGOs

- Evolving presence and system
- Often a repository of local laws
- Critical knowledge of local “actors”

Disaster/Relief NGOs

- “Apolitical”
- Food and relief are “Above the battle”
- Claim “Right of intervention”

Tanzania 1997

Fancy doing
“something useful?”
Spend three months living
and working in rural Africa on
health-related village projects.
No skills needed. If you’re
18-28, find out how by calling
HEALTH PROJECTS ABROAD
on 01629 640053

Major Relief NGOs

- CARE
- World Vision
- Catholic Relief Services
- Save the Children
- International Medical Corps
- Médecins sans Frontières
- Mercy Corps
- Africare
- Concern
- World Relief
- OXFAM
- AmeriCares

* Represent 95% of participating N

NGO Strengths

- Critical recipient level humanitarian work
- Small size - less bureaucratic, cheaper & more cost-effective
- Increased scope and independence
- Access to local knowledge
- Non-partisanship essential to security
- Humanitarian work protected by international convention

Source: Paula Hoy, Players and Issues in International Aid,

NGO Weaknesses

- Not homogenous system
- Lack of collaboration
- Small size
- Identify projects where they have expertise
- Failure to see the ‘big picture’
- Dependence on government funding erodes independence

Source: Paula Hoy, Players and Issues in International Aid, 1998

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

- Private institution
- Neutral intermediary in armed conflict
- Protect all victims
- Guardian of the Geneva Conventions
- Elaborate system of ‘rules of function’ in conflicts
- Highly focused authority under the Geneva Conventions
- No development work

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

- Largest: ~16,300 personnel
- Specializes in conflicts
- Mandate to respond under international law
- Protection of prisoners of war and civilians
- Family reunification
- Provide humanitarian relief for those most severely affected

International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies

- Federation of all national societies
- Comprised of an international staff
- Coordinates relief in natural disasters
- Helps refugees outside areas of conflict
- Aids in development of national societies

National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies

- Provide national programs
- Help sister societies
- Role as auxiliary to army medical services
- Cooperate with ICRC

ICRC / IFRC Position

Humanitarian assistance must be delivered by a neutral agency:

“Never judge who is right and who is wrong”

“The ability to alleviate suffering is hampered when humanitarian assistance is perceived as taking sides”

Host Nation

- Government - national assistance through civil service and community processes
- Regional/Local authority - government or otherwise
- Tribal / traditional leaders - elders, shamen, religious leaders
- Business - commerce leaders; opportunists that come into a crisis *to do business*
- Victims - those who are being assisted ! ! !

Donors

- European Community
- Japan
- Australia
- Britain
- United States
- Canada

Players: Relationship

- What are the mechanisms for discussion?
- When/where do they discuss?
- Under what conditions?
- Who is the lead agency?
- When would the players not discuss?

Other questions?

Questions?